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Proceedings at New Haven, October 16th and 17th, 1867.

The Society was convened by notification, on the day appointed at the last meeting, and in the same place as last year—namely, the Library-room of the Sheffield Scientific School of Yale College. The President took the chair and called the meeting to order at 3 o'clock.

The minutes of the last meeting having been read by the Recording Secretary and accepted, the Committee of Arrangements gave notice that the Treasurer of the Society, Prof. D. C. Gilman, invited the members to come together at his house in the evening, for a social gathering, at which, however, it was arranged that a single paper, that of Rev. Dr. Thompson, should be read. The invitation was accepted, with thanks, and the meeting so ordered.

The Directors announced that the Annual meeting for 1868 would be holden in Boston, on Wednesday, May 20th, and that Mr. Joseph S. Ropes, of Boston, with the Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, had been designated as Committee of Arrangements for it.

The following gentlemen, proposed and recommended by the Directors, were chosen Corporate Members of the Society :

Prof. Edward B. Coe, of New Haven.

“ D. Stuart Dodge, of New York.

“ E. P. Evans, of Ann Arbor, Mich.

Mr. Michael Heilprinn, of New York.

Prof. Ammi B. Hyde, of Meadville, Pa.

The Corresponding Secretary presented the correspondence of the past six months, extracts from which are given below.

Among the numerous letters of excuse from members unable to be present was one from Rev. J. G. Auer, dated from the Mission House of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at West Philadelphia, saying that his time of service in this country was now ended, and he was just leaving for his mission-field in West Africa, where he hoped to arrive about Christmas. He sent with the letter copies of the Grebo prayer-book and the Grebo-English dictionary of Bishop Payne, just published.

Another, of similar tenor, from Rev. G. W. Wood, of New York, was accompanied by an Armenian prayer-book, of which Mr. Wood writes—

“ The book is in the Modern Armenian language, and is the revised prayer-book issued by that party in the Armenian church which desires a reform in that church. It is put forth by those who reject the Protestant name; yet, by its omissions and positive teachings, it is a decided approach toward the Protestant faith.”

Dr. S. Wells Williams, under date of Peking, March 12th, 1867, says—

"You will be interested to learn that the Nestorian monument at Si-ngan-fu in Shensi has been recently visited by two foreigners, English missionaries, who found it in a good state of preservation, on the whole; the building in which it formerly stood, or in whose wall it was embedded, was in utter ruin, and the tablet remained upright, exposed to the weather. Mr. Lees and Mr. Williamson were quickly directed to the place, for the people knew the character of the inscription, and had no trouble in getting impressions of the engraving. It is a great and thick slab of black marble, and shows signs of the effects of the weather.

"The region around Si-ngan is now almost destitute of population, its inhabitants having fled to escape the horrible cruelties and exactions of the insurgents and Mohammedans during the last three years, who are still ravaging the country south of the mountains toward Hankau. Another Bible agent, Mr. Wylie, has just reached Peking from a journey across from Hankau through Kaifung, and narrowly escaped the hands of these marauding bands.

"I have just received the Society's Proceedings for 1865, which are very interesting. The notice of Mr. C. W. Bradley contains a just tribute to a very energetic and liberal promoter of Oriental studies. It was, however, Mr. Reed, our minister, who induced him to come up to the Pei-ho; I do not remember that Mr. Bradley had much intercourse at that time with Lord Elgin. Mr. Reed, too, sent him with the Treaty to Washington in July 1858, and he returned soon to China. The expedition was not in the winter, at which time ice covers the stream. Mr. Reed was also the means of getting him placed on the Commission of Claims, which were all settled in six weeks; it was the refusal of the government at Washington to pay what all regarded as his just salary for this work as Commissioner that led him to resign.

"My spare time is all employed in the revision of my dictionary, or I would try to send something for the Society."

Dr. J. Muir, of Edinburgh, writes under date of July 10th, 1867—

"I sent you some time ago Prof. Goldstücker's summary in the Examiner of his reply read in the winter to my paper on the interpretation of the Veda. Lately I wrote to Dr. Rost to find out if the article *in extenso* was yet in type, as I was naturally desirous to read the author's propositions in detail. But I was informed that Prof. Goldstücker was reserving the paper till he should be able to complete it by the addition of his proofs. When, then, if ever, the article is to see the light, must be left for the future to clear up; but I really wish he would let us have it, and show how he is going to demolish all his adversaries.

"Prof. Aufrecht is working steadily at his vocabulary—or concordance, as he calls it—of the Rig-Veda, having already sent his vocabulary of the Atharva-Veda to the press. Max Müller, as you will have become aware, is about to bring out a new translation of the Rig-Veda. He has been in rather weak health, but, I am glad to learn, is better now.

"I have been working all winter at a new edition of the first volume of my Sanskrit Texts, on Caste: it is partly printed, but will not be ready for at least another six months. It is very much enlarged."

Dr. W. F. A. Behrnauer, of Dresden, writes from Leipzig, June 12th, 1867—

"I send you my programme of the Oriental Photolithographic Album, destined to be printed in Leipzig, Paris, and Beyroot; with a proof. Have the kindness to print it in your Journal."

The Corresponding Secretary read the chief parts of the detailed (manuscript) prospectus, as follows:

"This great collection will contain in the first part fourteen Arabic works, in the second part six Persian works, in the third part four Turkish works, and in the fourth part the Assyrian cuneiform inscriptions of the Royal Museum of Antiquities of Dresden; namely,

Section I. No. 1. Al-Ghazzālī's ethical treatise entitled *Bedāyat ul-Hidāya*, 'The Beginning of the Right Way,' with an account of the philosophical systems of the Arab schools of the Middle Ages.—2. Plato's metaphysical treatise, known as the *Kitāb ar-Rawābī*, 'Book of the Four Elements,' translated by Ahmed Ben al-Huṣain Ben Jihār Bokhtār; and Ahmed Ben 'Alī Esnabadi's treatise on the science of the divinity (*ilm ilāhīyāt*) and the sciences relating to the substance of the matter of the world (*al-'ulūm al-hak'ikiyya*).—3. A zoological treatise extracted from the *Nozha* of the Sheikh Ustād Daud al-Baṣīr, collated with an extract from the *Kharidat al-'Ajāib* of Ibn al-Wardi; with an introduction to the study of the Arab zoologists and botanists, given in the '*Ajāib al-Makhluqāt* of Kazwini.—4. A specimen from the Arabic work of Abū 'Alī Yahya Ben 'Isa Ben Jazla, known as the *Minhāj ul-Beyān*, 'Methodical Exposition' of all that man wants for his life: with a special account of the author and his position among the Arab physicians.—5. The denominations of the medicaments (*al-adwiya al-mufrida*), ascribed to Ibn Sina (Avicenna), in the Arabic, Greek, Persian, and Turkish languages.—6. Two physiological extracts, one Arabic and one Turkish.—7. The little-known medical treatise, *al-Kāfiya al-Hārūniya*, by Mesh Ben Hakem; and an important physiological essay, of unknown authorship.—8. The well-known work entitled *Tadhkirat ul-Kahhālīm*, 'Memorial of the Oculists,' by 'Alī Ben 'Isa, with additions and various readings; also, an extract from the celebrated *pharmacopeia* entitled *Minhāj ud-Dukkān*, of the Jewish apothecary Kuhen al-'Attar.—9. An important extract, of twenty-six pages, from the noted work called *Beinisā'a*, a treatise on the diseases which can be treated in an hour, by the famous Abū Bakr Shamsaddin Ben Zakariya ar-Razi.—10. An extract of twenty pages from the *Kitāb ul-Idhāh fi 'Ilm in-Nikāh*, 'Exposition of the Science of Copulation,' of Abūlarfaraj 'Abdarrahman Ben Nasr ash-Shirazi; with a biography of the author, and a short notice of the oneirismancy of the eastern peoples.

Section II. No. 1. A musical treatise of the poet Jāmi, with the latter's biography, being an account of the relation of the Persian musical system to the Arab, the names of instruments from the dictionary *Haft Kulzum*, etc.—2. The grand mystical work, *Rebāb-Nāme*, 'Book of the Violin,' by Sultān Walad, son of the great poet Jelāleddin Rūmi, with biographical account and notes.—3. A Persian work on astronomy by the astronomer 'Alaeddin 'Alī Kushji (son of the first Turkish mathematician, Kādi Zade), named *Merkez-i-'alem*, 'Middle of the World,' with commentary.—4. Molla 'Abdul-'Alī's astronomical treatise on the division of time; with biography of the author.—5. An arithmetical treatise by the epitomiser of the Persian work *Hall-i-takwīm*. 6. The remainder of Wazīr Rashideddin's great work *Jāmi' at-Tawārikh*, of which the first volume was published by Quatremère, together with the forty pages on the Chinese kings, with their portraits.

Section III. The four Turkish works composing this section are of a historical and scientific character, with appendixes, translations, and biographies. Their special description, as well as that of the Nineveh slabs whose photolithographic representation constitutes the IVth Section, is omitted here.

From Rev. D. D. Green, Missionary of the Presbyterian Board at Hang-chau, China, comes a finely executed impression of a Chinese monument, with accompanying letter (dated May 7th, 1867), and translations:

"Enclosed please find a rubbing from a tablet in one of the monasteries near this city. It is a representation of the Goddess of Mercy, with her hundred hands, ready to do good to all. The inscription above the image is a Buddhistic chant, and contains so many foreign words that but few Chinese scholars can read it. Of the inscriptions under the image I send you a version. It is very unsatisfactory, but the best I can do with my present knowledge of the Chinese, in connection with the manifest ignorance of Chinese teachers as to the doctrines of the Buddhists. I send you this as an acknowledgment of the receipt of a copy of the Proceedings of the American Oriental Society for 1865, read about Jan. 1st, 1867."

The commemorative part of the inscription reads as follows :

" In the reign of the emperor Gyin-long, in the fiftieth cycle, during the spring, in [the city of] Vu-ling [*i.e.* Hang-chau], one having a good and believing heart sculptured this image of the Goddess of Mercy, and the sacred chant over it, and erected the tablet in the Dzin-z monastery, which is situated in the plain south [of the lake to the west of Hang-chau], in the hall of the god of longevity, by the favor of the Goddess of Mercy, the god presiding over the great present, and Buddha, whose ages cannot be numbered—to whom belong blessedness of community, in hope of the original unity without the least diversity. For the purpose of celebrating the praises of the pure perfection, these three chants were most carefully prepared. On examination, it is found that these three chants were anciently handed down from their author Wang, of the district city of Kyi-ling. His honorary title was Dzao-an, and his name was Zwüin-yiao."

Mr. Green adds a note or two :

" The monastery was first built during the Tsin dynasty, a few years before the beginning of the Song. The buildings have been repeatedly burned down, and again built up, sometimes by imperial patronage, but more often from funds collected by the priests. The place is now in ruins, like most of the temples in this vicinity, destroyed by the Tai-ping rebels. The tablet, however, is still standing.

" The date given in the inscription as that of the erection of the tablet is about A.D. 1795. The author of the verses lived about eight centuries earlier: the exact date could be ascertained, if access were had to the *hyien-ts* of his native place. The chants show that during the Song dynasty (A.D. 960-1280) scholars of no mean pretension were Buddhists."

The following communications were presented at the different sessions of the Meeting :

1. On the Routes and the Chief Articles of Commerce from the East to Europe during the Middle Ages, by Pres't T. D. Woolsey, of New Haven.

President Woolsey spoke of the route which led from India, by the Persian Gulf and the Euphrates, to Babylon, and so to the Mediterranean, and by the Red Sea to Egypt, and especially to Alexandria. These were ancient routes, and the trade passing through them was principally in the hands of Constantinople, although Venice at an early day shared in it. Venice dealt even in Christian slaves with the Mohammedans. The Popes long tried in vain to prevent commercial intercourse with these enemies of the faith. From Constantinople the route of trade lay especially up the Danube, by Vienna and Ratisbon, and thus penetrated into the regions of northern Europe.

During the crusades, so long as the avenue by the Persian gulf and the Red Sea were controlled by hostile Mohammedan powers, it became necessary to adopt another more expensive and circuitous route, requiring much land-carriage and several transfers of freight. This route led up the Indus, across the mountains on beasts of burden, thence by the Oxus, and so to the Caspian Sea. This, which was an ancient route, was now adopted by Venice and Genoa. From the Caspian it took especially the direction of the Volga, to a place called Zarizyn, thence across the country to the Don, where, at the river's mouth, in the town of Tana, now Azov, both Venice and Genoa had commercial privileges, and the former had a consul from the end of the 12th century. Afterwards an important entrepôt for Genoa was Theodosia, now Kaffa, in the Crimea.

When, in 1258, the Mongols under Hulagu Khan overthrew the Califate of Bagdad, Egypt being still hostile, it became possible to take the path by the Persian gulf and the Tigris to Bagdad, and so through the Mongol dominions to the west. Two subordinate routes—one across the country to Tauris (Tabris) and the Black Sea, the other *viâ* Tabris to the north-eastern corner of the Levant—sent the productions of the Orient into Europe. The important marts of the Italians on the Black Sea and the coast of Cilicia were noticed. The trade also of the Christian kingdom of Jerusalem was illustrated by reference to a chapter of the "assises

of the Burgesses' court of the kingdom of Jerusalem," in which the tariff on eastern products is carried out into a multitude of particulars.

After the crusades were over, the Popes having now softened down their prohibitions of commercial intercourse with Mussulmans, the Venetians made arrangements with the rulers of Egypt, by which they were enabled to engross the trade with the east along its most convenient path through the Red Sea, and this continued until towards the end of the Middle Ages, when the Portuguese found out a cheaper and better way of communication.

The principal products of the east imported into Europe were then spoken of, especially silk, until its manufacture was introduced into the Byzantine empire under Justinian, and from thence into Sicily and Italy. Of sugar also, and of the sugar refineries on the Tigris, whence the knowledge spread, not only westward with the cultivation of the cane, but eastward to India and China, an account was given, which was based on Ritter's valuable illustration of that subject in his great geographical work.

2. Translation of the Siamese Work entitled *Bre-Temīya-Jātak*, a life of Buddha in one of his previous existences, by Dr. A. Bastian, of Bremen; presented by the Corresponding Secretary.

The Buddhists, Dr. Bastian says, distinguish five hundred and fifty lesser Jātakas, and ten principal ones, treating of the life of Buddha in his various existences anterior to the historical one. The whole, collected together, form the *Nībat*, thirty books of which have been translated out of Pali into Siamese by Bana Dammapiyat. The *Temī Jātaka* is the first of the ten principal ones; the last, which relates the saint's life next preceding his being re-born as Gautama Čākyamuni, in Kapilavastu, being entitled the *Vesantara*, or the *Mahā-Jāt*, 'great Jātaka.'

This, like so many other Indian biographies, begins with telling of a king (sovereign of *Vārānasi*, 'Benares'), who lives long childless, until the merits and prayers of one of his numerous wives move Indra to come to the relief of the royal pair. The god's regard falls upon Bre-Borom-Bodhisatr, who, since his previous existence as a king of Benares, had spent 10,000 years in hell in expiation of his misdeeds committed in that capacity, and then had lived long in heaven in reward of his good deeds, and now, his debt and credit being both cancelled, was just ready to be born once more. Indra proposes that he choose for his next life the condition of son to the present king and queen of Benares, and promises that it shall tend to the further perfection of his merits. He assents; and five hundred other inhabitants of heaven, whose time is nearly up, are also despatched below to be born as his contemporaries and playmates. Sixteen wet-nurses are provided for him by the delighted king; the good points which led to their selection are fully detailed. The Brahmins prophesy all manner of good-fortune for him, and give him the name *Temīya*.

When a month old, he chances to be sitting in his father's lap when the latter pronounces sentence of torture and death on four malefactors. This offense against mercy, which the king will have to expiate hereafter by the torments of hell, startles and alarms him. He reflects on his own past history, and perceives that for such acts during his previous reign he had suffered almost endlessly in hell-fire, and that, if he allows himself to grow up a prince and become again a king, the same or a worse fate awaits him anew. He resolves, therefore, for the purpose of evading the royal dignity, to feign himself lame, deaf and dumb, and stupid; and he rigidly carries out his vows, emaciating his body by abstinence from his natural food. Now commences a series of severe tests, in which his unfortunate five hundred comrades have to share, intended to try whether he cannot be made to act like them, and to exhibit the desires and capacities suited to his age. But the prince, reflecting on the torments of hell, so much greater, bears all the tests unflinchingly, and shows an utter impassiveness. Deprivation of food, temptation by cakes, sweetmeats, fruits, playthings, and other sensual pleasures, alarms of fire, of wild elephants, of arms, of terrible noises, of darkness, distress by flies, by stench, by heat—all are fruitless. When he has thus reached the age of sixteen, his father again consults the Brahmins, who confess that their former prognostications were lies, and now advise that he be

sent away and buried in the cemetery of spectres. But the queen interferes, and, in fulfillment of an old promise made her at the time of the child's birth, extorts a cession of the royal authority to him for the space of seven days, and, during their continuance, lavishes upon her son her entreaties that he will have pity on her, give up the part she is sure he is acting, and show the powers he possesses. This also failing, he is carried out, in accordance with the directions of the Brahmans, to be killed and hidden away. But while the king's charioteer, charged with putting him to death, is digging his grave, he tries and finds himself possessed of superhuman powers, receives consecrated garments from Indra, and preaches the law to his intending murderer till the latter is fully converted, and desires to join him in a hermit's life in the forest. He refuses the proposal, and sends the charioteer back to the palace with the apparel he had worn and the tidings of his condition. The king and queen, the court and army, come out to see him in his hermitage, are also converted by his preaching, and, forsaking the capital, take up a religious life. The same fate befalls five other kings with their armies, as they come in succession with the intent of warring upon Benares. "There was room enough for all these recluses, and for more to come. The elephants were turned loose in the jungle; the horses returned to their wild condition; the royal chariots decayed and fell in pieces, mouldering in the forest. Gold, silver, precious gems, and jewels were strewn about and covered the ground like sand. And all these Bre-Dabos and Bre-Dabosi, on the extinction of life, ascended to the upper terraces of the Brahma-world, abiding there together. Those beings which were brute animals, if they had shown themselves of a kind and benevolent disposition toward the hermits, were re-born, on their death, in one of the six heavens, where they enjoyed celestial riches, and all became sons and daughters of divinities, in god-like existence."

3. On the Egyptian Doctrine of the Future Life, by Rev. Joseph P. Thompson, D.D., of New York.

Of this long and elaborate paper, the following are the leading points:

The legend of Isis and Osiris, which was but a spiritualizing of the yearly phenomena of nature in the Nile valley, lay at the foundation of the Egyptian doctrine of the future life. The departed soul is called the son of Osiris, sometimes Osiris himself, and repeats in his own course through Hades the various experiences of that divinity. He is furnished also with statuettes which represent the mummified form of Osiris bursting its wrappings and coming forth to renewed activity. The sources of Egyptian eschatology are limited: Herodotus, Plutarch, Diodorus Siculus, Empedocles, and others, have given a fragmentary account of the Egyptian belief; but our principal source is the "Book of the Dead."

This Book, which Champollion had already designated the "Funereal Ritual," was published entire by Lepsius in 1842, from the text of a hieroglyphic papyrus at Turin, which dates from the twenty-sixth dynasty, or the seventh century before Christ. The most important chapters of the book are found in papyri of a much older date, and also upon tombs of the eighteenth dynasty and sarcophagi of the eleventh. Indeed, fragments of it can be traced back to the age of the third pyramid.

Fragmentary, repetitious, without logical order, it revolves about two central points—the judgment of the deceased after death, and his passage onward through various transformations, unto the highest felicity in the presence and likeness of "the Chief God."

Dr. Samuel Birch, of the British Museum, has published in volume fifth of Bunsen's "Egypt's Place in Universal History" the first translation of the entire book. This translation is so extremely literal as sometimes to be unintelligible, while the prevailing mysticism of the book throws a degree of obscurity over its doctrines. Translations of the most important chapters have been made by Vicomte de Rougé, Pleyte, Chabas, Reinisch, Brugsch, and others. Rougé is now issuing a superb edition of the text, illustrated with vignettes, which sometimes furnish a most effective commentary; and Lepsius has just published the fragments of the Book of the Dead written upon the inner sides of the sarcophagi of the Old Empire in the Berlin Museum, under the title *Älteste Texte des Todtenbuchs*.

The Book teaches that the souls of all men, good and bad alike, continue to exist after death; that they all pass immediately into Hades, a doleful region, full of enemies and terrors, from whose ordeal the righteous cannot escape; here the wicked may be arrested and delivered to some devouring monster, or remanded to earth, for the discipline of animal transmigration, such being the Egyptian idea of metempsychosis. The righteous pass through a form of justification, and then, emerging at the gates of the West, follow the sun-bark in its bright career; they pass through various transformations, each advancing to a higher plane of existence, by the elimination of the mortal and the evil; then follows a solemn judgment-scene, in the Hall of Two Truths, where the heart of the deceased is weighed in the balance against the image of righteousness, and he is compelled to clear himself of each of the forty-two deadly sins, against as many accusers, who dispute his passage. Being acquitted, he enters the Elysian fields, and partakes of the food of the gods; after which he rises by a succession of grand halls and stair-ways to the Empyrean, the luminous presence-chamber of Osiris.

The consummation of blessedness, however, is not absorption into the divinity, for the soul retains throughout its consciousness and personal identity; and moreover, the soul visits the body, which has been so carefully preserved, and this is revived. The book clearly recognizes moral distinctions as the basis of divine judgment in the Hereafter, and the personal accountability of man to a supreme tribunal beyond the grave. There is not only a purgatory for the wicked, but a hell for the finally incorrigible.

Such, in general, is the theology of this remarkable book. The researches of scholars will eventually bring out its minuter shades of meaning, and perhaps reduce its doctrines to a well-ordered system.

4. A Plan for a Universal History, by Prof. Joseph W. Jenks, of Boston; presented by the Corresponding Secretary.

Prof. Jenks states that he has been long engaged upon a work which he proposes to call "History re-read, or an attempt at a simple and instructive philosophy of history," of which he presents the fundamental outline. He claims that man is of necessity the universal type; that humanity in the complex resembles, in nature, progress, and destiny, humanity in the individual; and that, accordingly, the periods of human history correspond with the successive stages in the life of the individual. He hopes to be able to present, in a year or two, a true historic view of the "childhood" of the race, extending from the end of the period of mythology and fable to the time of Abraham, or about 2000 B. C.

5. Critical Notice of Dr. Friedrich Böttcher's Hebrew Grammar, by Prof. George E. Day, D.D., of New Haven.

This grammar was issued last year from the press of J. A. Barth, in Leipzig. It is as yet unfinished, there being a second volume still to appear, which will be furnished with complete indexes to the whole work. The present volume is of six hundred and fifty-four royal octavo pages. Prof. Day recognized and commended the fidelity and care exhibited by the editor, Dr. Ferdinand Mühlan, a pupil of the deceased author, and characterized the work itself as deserving the attention of Hebrew scholars on account of its scientific treatment of Hebrew grammar, and the large number of methodized facts brought together in it. Dr. Böttcher has aimed to produce an exhaustive work, in which all the phenomena of the language should be subjected to the modern rational treatment. His divisions and subdivisions, although sometimes excessive and tedious, exhibit great thoroughness, and an evident mastery of the subject. After speaking favorably of the historical introduction, Prof. Day criticised the plan of the grammar. This volume is divided into two books, the former of which treats of the phonology, the other of the etymology of the language. The syntax is to follow in the second volume. In developing the sound-relations of the Hebrew, the author makes a constant distinction between what he calls "sonitals" and "spiritals," the latter class embracing the semivowels, as *Vav* and *Yodh*, and the gutturals, the former the vowels and most of the consonants. On the ground of this distinction, he

treats all the inflected words, whether nouns, verbs, or even particles, as either sonital, guttural, or semi-vocal. The treatment of the verb is quite general, while that of the substantive, which occupies two hundred and fifty pages, is unnecessarily long, in consequence of being burdened with an excessive citation of particulars. The paper dwelt upon a number of special points, in which the views of the author were either accepted or criticised, and closed with an appreciative estimate of the work, as in reality a thesaurus of materials for Hebrew grammar, and a valuable contribution to Semitic philology and to comparative philology in general.*

6. On the Translation of the Veda, by Prof. W. D. Whitney, of New Haven.

One of the leading philological problems of the present day, Prof. Whitney remarked, is to make a translation of the Veda, the Hindu Bible, both on account of its importance as exhibiting the ground-work of Hindu history, and because it is the most ancient existing Indo-European record, and the one that shows us the most primitive attainable phase of Indo-European life and institutions. By the Veda, we mean especially the Rig-Veda, the earliest and most extensive of the four hymn-collections which constitute the kernel of the sacred literature of India—together with such parts of the other collections as are akin with this in character. It has been handed down to us accompanied with a great body of accessory and explanatory works, of which the latest and fullest is the elaborate commentary of Śāyana, made in southern India, in the fourteenth century; in which is summed up the whole learning of the Hindu *pandits*, as gathered and transmitted by a long succession of generations. By the aid of this, especially, were made the first researches of European scholars into the Vedic language and antiquities. A question, now, has arisen as to the absolute value and authority of the commentary and its more ancient sources; the one side maintaining that it represents an immemorial tradition, and is to be, in the main, implicitly followed by us; the other, that it is the final product of a long-continued course of learned inquiry, and must be freely and searchingly criticized in every item, before acceptance. A number of important articles bearing on the controversy have been published within no long time, and of these Prof. Whitney's paper was mainly an abstract and review.

The first article is by Prof. Roth, of Tübingen, and is published in Vol. xxi. (for 1867) of the German Oriental Society's Journal. It sets forth the general principles bearing upon the point under discussion, the conditions under which a so-called "traditional" interpretation grows up, and the impossibility that it should ever have the authority claimed for it; and points out that the historical circumstances which should make the case otherwise in India are wholly wanting, and that an examination of the interpretation itself shows it to be of the ordinary character—namely, founded only on a grammatical and etymological basis.

Into such an examination of Śāyana's commentary and its chief predecessor, Yaska's Nirukta, the next article reviewed enters in detail. It is by Dr. Muir of Edinburgh, and published in Vol. ii., Part 2 (1867), of the Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society. With unimpeachable fairness, with great industry and learning, with clear statement and logical method, it goes over the whole ground, with great fulness of illustration; reaching the conclusion that "there is no unusual or difficult word or obscure text in the hymns in regard to which the authority of the Indian scholiast should be received as final, [or his interpretation accepted] unless it be supported by probability, by the context, or by parallel passages;" and that hence, "no translation of the Rig-Veda which is based exclusively on Śāyana's commentary can possibly be satisfactory."

* At the moment that this abstract of Prof. Day's notice is passing through the press, the first half of the second volume has come to hand. Its first ninety-five pages are occupied with the pronouns and pronominal suffixes, the remaining two hundred and twenty-four pages with the verb. The conclusion of the work is expected to be ready early in 1868.

Of the principles of Vedic interpretation thus established in the abstract by Prof. Roth, and in the concrete by Dr. Muir, a striking exemplification is furnished by Prof. Max Müller, in his article on the "Hymns of the Gaupāyanas and the Legend of King Asamāti" (published in the same volume with the one last spoken of). He selects a set of four hymns from the concluding book of the Rig-Veda, to which the tradition has attached an explanatory legend: he shows how this legend has grown up by degrees, by misapprehension and distortion of epithets and phrases of the hymns themselves, and that neither it nor the version made in conformity with it (and which he gives in full) really belongs to them; ending by giving a true version, founded upon independent study, and a determination of the relations of the parts of the text to one another.

In these three papers, we have the case of the anti-comment party presented from every point of view and with all desirable fullness.

The first European scholar of note to set forth and defend the contrary view was Prof. H. H. Wilson. He, however, had long passed the acme of his scholarly activity when the Veda began to attract attention in Europe, and, though his influence and patronage were freely given to the new study, and were of great importance to its progress, he was never in sympathy with its votaries, nor ever won a right to be called a Vedic scholar. The arguments by which he defends the commentaries show the prejudice naturally engendered by an Indian education, and sometimes involve gross transfers to the old Vedic time of the conditions of modern Hindu literature.

Since Wilson's death, his mantle has fallen upon Prof. Goldstücker of London, author of the fourth and last paper reviewed. This is entitled "On the Veda of the Hindus and the Veda of 'the German School,'" and was read before the Royal Asiatic Society early this year, but is not yet published otherwise than in a full and careful abstract (evidently made by the author himself) in the London "Examiner" for February 2, 1867. The title of the paper is in two respects open to criticism. In the first place, it seems to involve a *petitio principii*—the "Veda of the Hindus" being the object of all parties, and the point in dispute being whether this is to be arrived at by the methods of the modern Hindu schools, or of the modern European. In the second place, the name "German school," upon which the author dwells, and which he claims to borrow from Dr. Muir, is not found in the latter's paper, and is to be avoided, as seeming to appeal to whatever of prejudice may exist in English minds against foreign scholars and methods. At the same time, Dr. Goldstücker endeavors to disprove the existence of any such school, alleging that those who are claimed to belong to it are discordant in their methods and results. He overlooks, however, the fact that it is only with reference to one common doctrine—the non-acceptance as paramount authority of the commentator's interpretation—that they are ranked together as a school at all; and that they all in the fullest manner acknowledge the true interpretation to be attainable only as the final result of more or less discordant individual effort. Indeed, it may with much more truth be claimed that there is but one school of Vedic study in Europe, with Prof. Goldstücker as its opponent; since it is not known that any other Vedic scholar of eminence shares his views. And whether even he is its opponent on principle has been made doubtful by Dr. Muir, who shows that in his Dictionary he not infrequently criticises unfavorably and rejects Śāyana's version. It becomes, then, merely a question of personal capacity between the one side and the other; whether the right to deviate from the native authorities is to be confined to any person or persons, or restricted within the limits which these shall prescribe. Of course, each scholar must exercise his independence under responsibility, and he who, on a foundation of insufficient learning and judgment, attempts to translate the Veda, will render himself liable to be contemned and laughed at; there is doubtless temptation to over-confidence on the one side, as to a comfortable and labor-saving submissiveness on the other; yet all hope of progress is bound up with the former method. Prof. Goldstücker, in justification of the alternative versions so often given by the commentary, proposes to recognize them as originating in and held by different native schools: but, in so doing, he distinctly assents to the fundamental doctrine of his opponents—that these versions are the products of learned study, not of authoritative tradition. He declares that the determination of the grammatical cognateness of Vedic passages (upon which he

assumes the independent interpretations of the other party to be founded) is a peculiarly difficult problem, which has not yet been broached, much less settled. This claim requires farther explanation to make it intelligible: but, meantime, we are justified in going on to interpret simply by aid of the comparison of parallel passages—about which, certainly, there is no mystery, as it is the method successfully employed in every other language and literature besides the Vedic; not only as between authors of the same age, but through all the periods of every literature.

The principles of the "German school" are the only ones which can ever guide us to a true understanding of the Veda. We have within our reach precisely the same means of research which the Hindu schools had—namely, a knowledge of the classical Sanskrit and of modern Hindu institutions, and if our command of such knowledge is in some respects inferior to theirs, the deficiency is much more than made up by the superiority of our methods of research, and by our possession of a critical and historical spirit which was denied to them.

7. On Recent Geographical Explorations in the Hindu-Kuh Range, and its Vicinity, by Prof. D. C. Gilman, of New Haven.

Prof. Gilman gave an abstract of the results of several works which have appeared within no long time past, treating of this interesting region, especially of the alleged wanderings and observations of an anonymous writer, brought to light by the Russian traveller, M. Veniukof, and recently printed in the London Geographical Society's Journal.—the authenticity of the original document having been called in serious question by English geographers. He exhibited maps of the region, and pointed out how it was being approached from more than one side by geographical exploration and discovery.

Rev. Cyrus Byington, for nearly fifty years a missionary among the Choctaw Indians, being present, gave, by request, some account of the progress of civilization and religion in that community during his presence with them, and described, partly in answer to questions, some of the striking peculiarities of their language.

The Society then adjourned, to meet again in Boston, on the 20th of May, 1868.